UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CONF.84/PC/11
26 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Second session
10-21 May 1993
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

SUMMARY

This note presents the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference for the major document which the International Conference on Population and Development is to adopt as a new plan of action on population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Debate on the nature and substance of that document is expected to be a major feature of the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Decisions taken on the conceptual framework will then direct and guide the secretariat of the Conference in the preparation of that Conference document during the period between the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee. For this reason, the Secretary-General of the Conference attaches considerable importance to the holding of a substantive debate on the concept and structure of the proposed document for the Conference and to the agreement during the second session of the Preparatory Committee on its content and method of preparation.

* E/CONF.84/PC/3/Rev.1.

93-23918 (E) 030593 050593

/...

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	3
I. THE APPROACH	3 - 4	3
II. BACKGROUND	5 - 7	4
III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	8 - 12	5
IV. PROPOSED OUTLINE	13 - 45	6

INTRODUCTION

1. The International Conference on Population and Development, with its overall theme of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, is linked in many ways to previous United Nations-sponsored intergovernmental activities. It is the third United Nations intergovernmental conference on population, following the 1974 World Population Conference and the 1984 International Conference on Population. Its mandate of addressing the interrelationship of population, economic growth and sustainability also clearly links it to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Each of these different but related perspectives is expected to have an important influence on the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development.

2. The Economic and Social Council, endorsing the proposals of the Preparatory Committee at its first session, decided that the third session of the Preparatory Committee should be devoted to reviewing documentation for the Conference. If the two-week third session, scheduled for 11-22 April 1994, is to prove adequate for this purpose, it will be important that all participants in the preparatory process for the Conference have a clear understanding of the issues to be addressed, their interrelationship and the manner in which they will be reflected in the final Conference document. The purpose of this note is to outline the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference for the content and structure of the document, which will then be the basis for negotiations at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

I. THE APPROACH

3. The International Conference on Population and Development is expected to have before it two major documents:

(a) A new plan of action addressing the key objectives of the Conference, giving particular consideration to ways and means of treating population issues in their proper development perspective;

(b) A review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action.

The Secretary-General of the Conference proposes that the Conference adopt as its final document a new plan of action on population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. While the primary time-frame of such a document would be the ensuing decade, as decided by the Council, the recommendations could also take a longer perspective where appropriate.

4. The relevance of the final document adopted by the Conference will depend in large part on the extent to which its recommendations are viewed as relevant to the many and diverse participants in the preparatory process for the Conference. The Secretary-General of the Conference places considerable importance on the elaboration of a document which is both comprehensive and operational, while remaining succinct. The document should reflect current perspectives of the international community on population issues and as such should represent a new international consensus on the full integration of

population concerns into economic and social activities and sustainable development.

II. BACKGROUND

5. As proposed by the Preparatory Committee at its first session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/93, identified six groups of issues as those requiring the greatest attention, during the forthcoming decade, from the international community and from the Conference:

(a) Population growth, changes in demographic structure, including ageing of population, and the regional diversity of such changes, with particular emphasis on the interaction between demographic variables and socio-economic development;

(b) Population policies and programmes, with emphasis on the mobilization of resources for developing countries, at the international and national levels by each country according to its capacity;

(c) The interrelationships between population, development, environment and related matters;

(d) Changes in the distribution of population, including socio-economic determinants of internal migration and the consequences for urban and rural development, as well as determinants and consequences of all types of international migration;

(e) Linkages between enhancing the roles and socio-economic status of women and population dynamics, including adolescent motherhood, maternal and child health, education and employment, with particular reference to the access of women to resources and the provision of services;

(f) Family planning programmes, health and family well-being.

6. In order to ensure that the three elements of the overall theme of the Conference are fully reflected, population issues should be addressed in a manner that emphasizes the interrelationships of demographic factors and trends with sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

7. The objectives of the Conference, which are set out in Council resolution 1991/93 and will guide the Preparatory Committee in its consideration of the final document of the Conference, are:

(a) To contribute to the review and appraisal of the progress made in reaching the objectives, goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action and to identify the obstacles encountered;

(b) To identify instruments and mechanisms in order to ensure the operational implementation of the recommendations;

(c) To maintain and strengthen the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda and their linkage to development;

(d) To consider the desired focus of intensified action at the global, regional and national levels, as well as all necessary ways and means of treating population issues in their proper development perspective during the forthcoming decade and beyond;

(e) To adopt a set of recommendations for the next decade in order to respond to the above-mentioned population and development issues of high priority;

(f) To enhance the mobilization of resources needed, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the results of the Conference; resources should be mobilized at the international and national levels by each country according to its capacity.

III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

8. The Secretary-General of the Conference proposes that, following agreement on the content and structure of the final document during the second session of the Preparatory Committee, a draft final document should be prepared by the Conference secretariat and presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee in April 1994. It is recognized that, in order for such a procedure to prove successful, it is essential that the Preparatory Committee provide clear guidance on all aspects of the final document at its second session.

9. The preparatory process for the Conference has already provided many important proposals for possible inclusion in the final document. Among the most important are the outcomes of the five regional conferences and the results of the six expert group meetings. The replies of Governments to the Seventh United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments and the results of the biennial monitoring of world population trends, policies and multilateral programmes should also be taken into account. In addition, consideration should be given to the substantial number of proposals that have been made by relevant parts of the United Nations system and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The second session of the Preparatory Committee is viewed as the appropriate time for a thorough review of such proposals, culminating in agreement on their incorporation into the final document of the Conference.

10. It will be important for the final document to concentrate on issues of central importance to the mandate of the Conference, in view of which the Secretary-General of the Conference proposes that potential issues for inclusion in the document be assessed in terms of their relationship to population concerns, such as, inter alia, population and environment, population and poverty, family planning and women's reproductive health and rights.

11. To assist in the elaboration of recommendations which are both specific and operational in character, it is proposed that issues should be addressed within the final document on a chapter or section basis. The Secretary-General of the Conference presents to the Preparatory Committee, in section IV below, views on the structure of each such chapter or section. The intention is to set each issue in context, identify the level at which the recommended action is to be implemented (international, national, community, individual etc.) and highlight

the necessary inputs and contributions that will be needed to fulfil the recommendation.

12. Preceding the chapters in the final document containing specific recommendations for action, the Secretary-General of the Conference also proposes the inclusion of a separate but closely related section addressing the overarching issues and principles that should guide the operational recommendations (see Part One of the proposed outline below), which would then be viewed and assessed within the broader context set by these guiding principles. Such a section of the final document could be descriptive or declaratory.

IV. PROPOSED OUTLINE

PREAMBLE

13. In its work on population projections, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat has prepared three scenarios for population growth. The medium variant for the 1992 assessment foresees a world population of 6.2 billion by the year 2000 and 8.5 billion by 2025. Under the low-variant projection, the world population may reach 7.9 billion by 2025, while under the high variant, it may reach as high as 9.1 billion. In all of these scenarios, billions of additional people will need to be fed, clothed, housed, educated and employed by 2025. There is an imperative need to alleviate the conditions of abject poverty under which hundreds of millions of people live today. In addition, the basic needs of the population that will inevitably be added in the next 30 years must be met. Taking care of their basic needs and improving their quality of life will require sustained economic growth within the framework of sustainable development.

14. In this setting, the preamble should seek to define clearly the objectives and goals that need to be pursued by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the international community to improve prospects for accelerated economic growth, reduce high rates of population growth and produce conditions under which the development process can be maintained and promoted on a sustained and sustainable basis. It would therefore be appropriate for the preamble to reflect the major intergovernmental commitments relating to population, economic and social development and sustainability. The most directly relevant international instruments are the World Population Plan of Action, adopted by the World Population Conference in 1974, 1/ and the recommendations for its further implementation, adopted by the International Conference on Population in 1984. 2/ Also relevant are the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations; 3/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 4/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; 5/ and Agenda 21. 6/ Consideration should also be given to the relationships of the 1994 Conference to future intergovernmental conferences on issues related to population and development.

PART ONE. ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

15. Part One should outline the fundamental concerns and issues which must be at the centre of all action on population and development. It should set the context for all subsequent recommendations and observations and should include the following issues:

(a) Individual rights and responsibilities;

(b) Societal rights and obligations;

(c) Gender equality and empowerment of women;

(d) Choice and the protection of reproductive rights;

(e) Intergenerational equity and responsibility;

(f) Opposition to coercion;

(g) The interrelationship of population and sustainable development;

(h) Protection of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, in time of disaster, civil unrest, war etc.;

(i) Moral and ethical perspectives on population and development.

PART TWO. CHOICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

16. Part Two of the document should address, on a sectoral basis, issues relating to population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The structure outlined below should be seen as indicative of the final format, while the content will depend on negotiations held by the Preparatory Committee.

Chapter I. INTEGRATING POPULATION CONCERNS INTO DEVELOPMENT

A. Population in the context of sustainable development

17. International understanding of the concept of sustainable development continues to evolve. At the same time there is growing appreciation of the diverse interlinkages of population concerns with both economic activity and environmental conditions. It is seen as important that this process gain due recognition and support at both international and national levels.

B. Population and socio-economic development

18. Perspectives and experiences differ on the relationship between population size and growth and socio-economic progress. Actions aiming at integrating population concerns into development should give particular attention to improving the quality of life, alleviating poverty and reaching other goals

specified in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

C. Population and the environment

19. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development served to highlight the impact of current human activity on the natural environment. Relatively little attention, however, has been paid to the projected consequences of future population levels and related patterns of consumption and production. It will be important for the Conference to build on the understanding reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, while avoiding encroachment on ongoing negotiations relating to environment issues.

Chapter II. THE ROLE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

20. Achieving genuine gender equality has an important impact on the status of women and the role they are able to play in all aspects of socio-economic development. It is expected that the full spectrum of issues involving women and population concerns will be in the final document adopted by the Conference. Such specific recommendations will be additional to and supportive of references to the status of women in Part One of the document.

Chapter III. POPULATION GROWTH AND STRUCTURE

A. Diversity of population growth rates

21. Although global patterns show that the world population is in a process of demographic transition, important variations exist at the regional level and within regions and countries. Many countries seem to converge to a pattern of low population growth but at different speeds and at rates that are becoming increasingly diverse. Others have yet to begin such a process. Equally noteworthy is the contrast between the decline in population growth rates and the absolute increase of population. Since up to 95 per cent of population growth in the coming decade will occur in developing countries, the rate of fertility decline in those countries will be a critical determinant of future world population size. Measures designed to assist countries in addressing the consequences of demographic trends at different transition stages should be elaborated.

B. Children and youth

22. Due to the persistence of high fertility levels, a large number of developing countries have, within their overall populations, substantial proportions of children and young people. In some countries, as a consequence of an increase in their levels of fertility, the proportion of children and youth has increased, thus producing a phenomenon called "juvenation". The challenges created by such situations in both economic and social terms should be addressed.

C. Ageing populations

23. The steady increase of older age groups in national populations has significant implications for many countries, both developed and developing. The economic and social impact of this "ageing of populations" needs to be recognized both as an opportunity and a challenge.

D. Family formation

24. As part of the processes of rapid demographic and accelerated social change in both developed and developing countries, the patterns of family formation are undergoing considerable change and the composition and structure of families are also being altered. The implications of such changes for demographic processes and the formulation of responsive policies and programmes should be addressed.

Chapter IV. REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

A. Diversity of fertility levels

25. The experience in many developing countries over the past two to three decades demonstrates that increasing investment in the social sector in the areas of education and health, including family planning, as well as concentrated efforts aimed at improving the role and status of women, have led to rapid fertility decline. This experience should be taken into account in formulating and implementing goals and objectives in the population sector.

B. Family planning

26. Family planning programmes respond to two basic concerns:

(a) To guarantee the exercise of the rights of couples and individuals to decide the number and the spacing of their children;

(b) To promote the health of women, children and the family.

Family planning programmes are also an important component of population programmes and development strategies.

C. Adolescent fertility

27. The high and in some cases growing prevalence of pregnancies among adolescents is a phenomenon that currently affects both developed and developing countries. The phenomenon raises a range of issues concerned with the current and future welfare of young men and, specifically, young women and the children they bear.

Chapter V. HEALTH AND MORTALITY

A. Goals and targets in health and mortality

28. Existing goals and targets for health and mortality issues at global, regional and national levels need to be reflected and updated as necessary. Appropriate objectives should be formulated in the light of recent socio-economic, epidemiological and technological developments.

B. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome: demographic and health impacts

29. The opportunity currently exists for the international community to articulate a consensus on the demographic, health and social impacts of this pandemic. There is an urgent need to address the issue both in terms of its demographic impact and the contribution that population-related programmes, including family planning, can make to its prevention.

C. Maternal mortality

30. Continued high levels of maternal mortality in developing countries are of great concern, particularly because means of reducing them are well known. Close to one third of maternal deaths are estimated to be due to unsafe and often illegal abortions, which represent one of the major health hazards confronting women. Measures to reduce morbidity and mortality related to pregnancy and child-bearing should be proposed.

Chapter VI. THE WORLD ON THE MOVE: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

A. Documented migrants

31. On the basis of existing international instruments and taking into account changing concerns regarding migration, measures to protect the rights of migrants and to ensure that the positive consequences of migration are realized in both countries of origin and destination will be proposed.

B. Undocumented migrants

32. In accordance with the provisions of international instruments, measures to protect the rights of undocumented migrants and to prevent their exploitation, while at the same time combating those who facilitate undocumented migration, will be presented.

C. Refugees

33. The increasing numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers are a growing issue in many regions. The need to address the root causes of refugee flows should be stressed, the right to asylum should be reaffirmed and measures to protect and assist refugees and repatriated refugees should be proposed.

Chapter VII. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

A. Population growth in large urban agglomerations

34. Measures to meet the diverse challenges posed by the continued growth of large urban agglomerations should be developed, with particular emphasis on the needs of poor urban dwellers.

B. Population distribution and development

35. Measures that foster sustainable development by taking account of the positive and negative impacts of population distribution and migration should be considered.

C. Population distribution policies and development policies

36. Measures leading to a better integration of spatial considerations in development strategies should be prepared.

Chapter VIII. INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION: STRIVING FOR GREATER AWARENESS

37. Ensuring the widespread dissemination of relevant information on population and development should be an important aspect of the objectives of the Conference. Education at all levels will be needed to increase awareness of the interrelationship between population issues, economic and social decisions and sustainability. In addition to identifying appropriate messages dealing with those issues, it will be necessary to address the means of conveying them effectively to target audiences.

38. It is proposed that the central focus of this chapter should be the key message of the 1994 Conference: information and education should emphasize "choices and responsibilities".

Chapter IX. THE ABILITY TO MANAGE POPULATION PROGRAMMES: CAPACITY-BUILDING

39. Development of effective, integrated programmes addressing population issues, particularly family planning, within the context of sustainable economic activity, requires the participation of appropriately trained personnel working within effective institutional arrangements. Development of these necessary

human resources, especially in developing countries, should be addressed, to ensure better programme/project design; the establishment or implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems; improvement of supervision; service delivery; and quality of services.

Chapter X. TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

A. Data collection and analysis

40. There should be recognition of the need to formulate guidelines for facilitating the complementary use of population censuses, civil registration systems and socio-demographic surveys, as well as the need to promote the analysis and dissemination of the results of such research.

B. Substantive and operational research

41. The need to encourage and support both basic and operational research, particularly in the area of human reproduction, should be addressed. Particular attention should be given to the development of safe and effective contraceptive technologies for men and women.

Chapter XI. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION

A. Activity at the national level

42. Decisions taken and implemented at the national level are recognized as the most significant in terms of both quality of life and impact on global population levels. Measures to recognize the crucial importance of fully integrating population-related policies into national socio-economic development strategies should be considered.

B. International cooperation

43. The existing spectrum of intergovernmental cooperation relating to population issues requires recommendations for its further development. Attention should be given to cooperation between the developing countries as well as to assistance by the developed countries to their developing country partners. It is proposed that this section also address the interrelationship between assistance directed to population-related activities and international cooperation connected to the broader areas of socio-economic development and sustainability.

Chapter XII. SUPPORTING A WORKABLE PARTNERSHIP

44. There is growing acceptance in many countries of the positive contribution which non-governmental groups can make to the development and implementation of population-related activities. It is proposed that the contribution of community groups, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant participants be acknowledged.

Chapter XIII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE: FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

45. To ensure that commitments made at the Conference are developed into action, with tangible results, it will be necessary to make arrangements to ensure effective implementation of Conference decisions. At the level of the United Nations system, this should involve the integration of population concerns into social and economic development efforts, in terms of both evaluation and policy development. Arrangements will need to be outlined to ensure ongoing monitoring, review and appraisal of the outcome of the Conference. Attention will also need to be given to effective follow-up at the operational level, particularly in regard to funding, technical assistance and coordination.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

2/ Report of the International Conference on Population, 1984, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6-9 November 1989 (New York, United Nations Population Fund, 1990), annex.

4/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

5/ A/CONF.147/18, Part One.

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.